

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 /068 W

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R 021637Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7982

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0006

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, US

SUBJ: ANGOLA: PRES KEREKOU CRITICIZES USG AND OTHER WESTERN
POWERS FOR ALLEGED SILENCE RE SOUTH AFRICAN INTER-
VENTION

REF A. STATE 303313 B. STATE 302323

1. SUMMARY OF SEC'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS ON ANGOLA CONTAINED REF B WAS CONVERTED INTO DIP NOTE SENT TO FORNMINISTRY DEC 30. FULL WIRELESS FILE FRENCH TRANSLATION OF PRESS CONFERENCE ENCLOSED WITH NOTE. WE WILL REINFORCE OUR NOTE WITH ORAL PRESENTTATION WHENEVER WE MANAGE TO OBTAIN AUDIENCE AT HIGH LEVEL OF FORNMINISTRY (THIS CONNECTION AMB STILL WAITING FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MIN REQUESTED BY NOTE DEC 3).

2. IN SPEECH TO ASSEMBLED DIP CORPS ON OCCASION OF EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS, PRES KEREKOU DELAT INTER ALIA WITH ANGOLA. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF SEC'S STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OR WAS IGNORING THEM. HIS EXPRESSION OF SHOCK "AT THE INTENTIONAL SILENCE OF CERTAIN STATES IN THE FACE OF THE INVASION AND RECOLONIZATION OF ANGOLA BY THE RACIST FORCES OF SOUTH AFRICA..." WAS AIMED MOSTLY AT USG BUT PERHAPS ALSO LESS SO AT FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. (AND POSSIBLEY ZAIRE).

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3. COMMENT: PRES KEREKOU'S IGNORANCE (REAL OR SIMULATED) OF SEC'S CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IS NOT IN THE LEAST SURPRISING. THE SKIMPY BENIN MEDIA COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS IS BASED ENTIRELY ON COMMUNIST NEWS SERVICES AND COMMUNIST EMBASSY HANDOUTS. NOT MORE THAN ONE OR TWO GOVT MINISTERS LISTEN TO VOA, BBC OR FRENCH ORTF. IN ANY CASE, EVEN IF KEREKOU AND HIS EXTREMIST COHORTS WERE AWARE OF CURRENT USG POLICIES AND ACTIONS RE ANGOLA, HIS GOVT WOULD, IN OUR OPINION, CONTINUE TO IGNORE POSITIVE STEPS BY THE USG SINCE THESE ARE INCONSISTENT WITH PRB DOGMAS AND PREFERENCES.

4. IN ORDER TO SPREAD KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF USG VIEWS ON ANGOLA, EMBOFFS ARE DESCRIBING THEM TO ALL OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE BENINOIS WITH WHOM THEY COME INTO CONTACT. OUR NEXT USIS WEEKLY BULLETIN (CIRC 1500, WITH ADDRESSEES ALL OVER THE PBR) WILL CARRY AS ITS FEATURE STORY AN ARTICLE BASED ON SEC'S REMARKS ON ANGOLA DEC 23. END COMMENT.
ENGLE

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